The Bibliotheca Alexandrina Manual of Style

The Bibliotheca Alexandrina Manual of Style

Part 1

Bibliographies & Reference Lists

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Editor's Note

"Necessity is mother of all inventions" could not ring truer than in the case of this book and how it was born out of a need that had not been met for many years.

The idea of this manual first came up when the reference librarians of the Library of Alexandria began to develop 'Information Literacy' courses. As they were offering an introductory research course to college students, they discovered that an Arabic manual of style, as a reference source, was badly needed. To our surprise, no Arabic manual of style had ever been published. A gap therefore had to be filled.

In research writing classes, at the Library of Alexandria, the Chicago Manual of Style is used for English language reference lists and bibliographies. The absence of an equivalent Arabic manual of style was the motivation for the adaptation of this manual of style to Arabic. The adaptation was done bearing in mind the differences that are language specific. As there was no precedent to fall back on, we often found ourselves resorting to innovation.

The first draft was just a handout of a few pages long, developed specifically for class use, with a limited and obviously insufficient number of examples about books and journal articles. Eventually, we began to collect more rules and examples relating to Arabic, English, and French, the three most used languages in research at the Library of Alexandria. Before we knew it, the handout had developed into a full-fledged manual.

Many of the young Library of Alexandria professionals who worked on this book had to first learn about the various existing styles, understand

the differences between the three languages, and become familiar with punctuation rules in Arabic, English, and French.

We are proud to finally put in our users' hands an easy-to-use manual and to establish standards for Arabic bibliography. It has taken us four years to complete, and we hope that the fruit of our labor will make a difference to our users throughout Egypt and the Arabic speaking world.

This book will be published in three parts. Part 1 handles the different variations of citing formats in the cases of books, journals, theses, and web sites. Part 2 will show additional formats such as multimedia material, manuscripts, microforms, and others, while Part 3 will cover notes related to all bibliographic formats of Parts 1 and 2.

It is hoped that researchers who will find Part 1 of this book useful to their purposes may find Part 2, which is coming out soon, equally beneficial and that Part 3, which is yet to come, will shortly follow on the same lines.

Sohair Wastawy, Ph.D.
Chief Librarian
Bibliotheca Alexandrina
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